

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTORS: Peter E. Leach and Christopher M. Gallant
Serial No: not yet assigned Examiner:
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(Divisional of 09/576,831, filed May 23, 2000)
For: SEGMENTED SEPARABLE FASTENER

Commissioner for Patents
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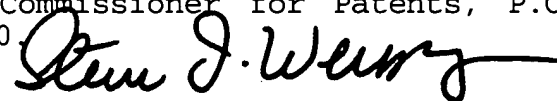
Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The Revised format for amendments set forth at 37 C.F.R.
1.121, effective July 30, 2003 is being used.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this Document and the papers indicated as being transmitted therewith is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date October 29, 2003 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EV239312490US, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Steven J. Weissburg

Please amend the title as follows.

Page 1, the title of the invention, delete the title, and substitute therefor:

APPARATUS FOR MAKING SEGMENTED SEPARABLE FASTENER

Please amend the specification as follows.

Page 1, before the Background section, add the following sentence:

--This is a divisional of co-pending co-assigned U.S. application, U.S.S.N. 09/576,831, filed on May 23, 2000, and claims the benefit of that earlier application. The entire disclosure of that application is hereby incorporated fully herein, by reference.--

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-35. (Canceled) Please cancel without prejudice claims 1-35.

36. (Original) An apparatus for fabricating a strip of a separable fastening component, said apparatus comprising:

a. a plurality of mold plates, designated a fastener forming zone, having similar arcuate edges and comprising:

i. fastening element mold cavities intersecting these edges and one face of the mold plate, said mold cavities being arranged into a plurality of segment forming regions;

ii. circumscribing each of said segment forming regions, a gasket mold cavity; and

iii. between each adjacent pair of segment forming regions, a hinge forming region;

said mold plates being arranged to form a cylindrical mold wheel having a circular surface formed by said arcuate edges of said mold plates such that said segment forming regions are spaced apart circumferentially around said cylindrical surface; and

b. an extruder having a die whose surface is disposed close to said cylindrical surface for delivering moldable polymeric material to said mold cavities to form upstanding members and also to said surface to form

therewith a polymeric base member strip to which said upstanding members formed in the mold cavities are integrally attached.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36, each of said plates comprising a circular plate.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36, each of said plates comprising less than an entire circular plate, said apparatus further comprising, for each fastener forming zone, a group of said plurality of plates, said members of said group being arranged with said arcuate edges forming said circular cylindrical surface of said mold wheel.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising additional pluralities of fastening plates, each of said additional pluralities comprising another fastener forming zone, said additional pluralities being arranged axially along said circular cylinder mold wheel to form side-by side fastener forming zones.

40. (Original) An apparatus for fabricating a strip of a separable fastening component, said apparatus comprising:

- a. a plurality of mold plates, designated a fastener forming zone, having similarly curved edges and comprising:
 - i. fastening element mold cavities intersecting these edges and one face of the mold plate, said mold cavities being arranged into a plurality of segment forming regions;

ii. circumscribing each of said segment forming regions, a gasket mold cavity; and

iii. between each adjacent pair of segment forming regions, a hinge forming region;

said mold plates being arranged to form one component of a multi-piece injection molding assembly having a surface formed by said edges of said mold plates, such that said segment forming regions are spaced apart along said surface; and

b. a second component of said injection molding assembly, matable with said surface of said first component; and

c. disposed within at least one of said components of said assembly, passages for delivering moldable polymeric material to said mold cavities to form upstanding members and also to form therewith a polymeric base member strip to which the upstanding members formed in the mold cavities are integrally attached.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, said second component further comprising complementary molding cavities to form said base member and to define edges of said base member strip.

42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising means for removing a molded article from said molding

assembly and advancing said molded article along a path, and then joining said advanced molded article to another molded article to be subsequently formed in said mold assembly.

Please amend the drawings as follows.

Please substitute for drawing Figures 1-18 on seventeen (17) sheets, the enclosed Figures 1-18 on fourteen (14) sheets.